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Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

The risk of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East

Establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East

Report of the Secretary-General

Addendum*

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* This information was received after the submission of the main report.

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III. Replies received from Governments

Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan

[Original: Arabic]
[22 October 2012]

1. The Government of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan supports United Nations endeavours aimed at the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East and the consolidation of peace and security throughout the world. Jordan has always been indefatigable in its support for all General Assembly resolutions that aim to establish regional and international peace and security, from the earlier resolutions that were adopted in the 1970s, to resolution 66/25 of 2011. All those resolutions recommend that practical steps should be taken for the establishment of a nuclear-weapon-free zone in the region of the Middle East.

2. Jordan further affirms the importance of settling disputes by peaceful means, strengthening confidence-building measures at all levels and supporting disarmament and arms control, in order to avoid the growth of a climate of no-confidence between the countries of the region that could lead to armed conflict in the future. Jordan promotes the resolution of armed conflict through negotiation, by official enquiry, reconciliation, arbitration or judicial settlement, or by having recourse to regional agencies or arrangements or other peaceful means chosen by the parties. Jordan is well known for its moderate policies and love of peace and for its invariable concern that the peoples of the region should avoid the misfortunes of war and destruction, albeit geographical factors have dictated that it should be located in an area in which the majority of States aspire to possess weapons of mass destruction.

3. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan is committed to all Security Council resolutions concerning weapons of mass destruction, disarmament, non-proliferation and the use of force against civilians, of which the most important is resolution 1540 (2004), which is considered fundamental at the international level to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The States of the region should cooperate and genuinely aspire to the non-proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and towards the establishment in the Middle East of a nuclear-weapon-free zone. Jordan also urges States to comply with United Nations resolutions and the bilateral, regional and international agreements, including disarmament agreements, that they have signed.

4. Jordan's policy of commitment to the control of traditional weapons and weapons of mass destruction has a direct impact on security policy at the regional and supraregional levels. Jordan is a party to several international agreements and initiatives that aim to control the proliferation of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction and eradicate nuclear terrorism. This underlines the clarity of the Jordanian policy towards weapons of mass destruction and the sincerity of its endeavours to free the Middle East of all such weapons and bring security and nuclear safety to the region.

5. Jordan believes that the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction poses a threat to security and stability in the region that has a negative impact on peace efforts aimed at resolving disputes between the States of the region, including the Arab-Israeli conflict, and can also lead to lack of trust between those States, as well

as impacting negatively and severely on the development of the region and the security and economic, environmental and humanitarian well-being of its peoples. On the basis of that stance, Jordan has signed most of the instruments concerning chemical, biological and nuclear weapons and makes an effective contribution to all activities relating to disarmament and regional security. Those instruments include the following:

- Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty
- Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty
- Chemical Weapons Convention
- Biological Weapons Convention
- Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism
- Proliferation Security Initiative
- International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism
- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
- Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident
- Agreement on the Privileges and Immunities of the International Atomic Energy Agency
- Convention on Assistance in Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency
- Convention on Nuclear Safety

6. Jordan believes it is essential that all the States in the region, without exception, should sign the instruments relating to these weapons, in order to achieve security and stability for all the peoples of the region. Jordan further supports all Arab stances in the field of security. The collective security of the States of the region may be realized through disarmament, not by means of possessing weapons of mass destruction, which can only lead to an armament race and a dearth of security. Jordan calls for equal consideration to be given to all weapons of mass destruction and believes that equal efforts should be exerted to achieve complete disarmament in respect of those weapons. It supports efforts aimed at creating a region in the Middle East that is completely free of such weapons, because that will strengthen peace and security at the regional and international levels.

7. Jordan has strong, cooperative ties with its neighbouring States in the region that are based on mutual assistance and common interests and aim to establish security and peace in the region of the Middle East. In 1994, Jordan concluded the Treaty of Peace with Israel and since then, the Government of Jordan has always been the first State in the region to become a party to international instruments that relate to disarmament and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, with the aim of establishing in the region of the Middle East a zone free of weapons of mass destruction.

8. The position of Jordan on weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East is clear and unwavering and has never changed. Jordan has no nuclear weapons or means of delivery for the same. It does not deal with them either directly or indirectly, and has no aspirations or desire to possess or develop any programme

relating to such weapons. It has never provided any scientific, technical or material assistance to any party that is attempting to acquire or develop nuclear weapons and has not permitted any activity related to such weapons to take place on its territory.

9. With a view to ridding the world of nuclear weapons, Jordan supports all regional and international endeavours to prohibit the use of and eliminate those weapons. It therefore swiftly adopted a firm and unambiguous policy towards weapons of mass destruction that includes a set of preventive measures and arrangements at the political and security levels.

(a) At the political level:

(i) Jordan has become a party to all international instruments and protocols that prohibit the acquisition and use of weapons of mass destruction.

(ii) In the Treaty of Peace with Israel, Jordan ensured the inclusion in article 4, paragraph 7, of subparagraph (b), that calls for the creation of a Middle East free from weapons of mass destruction, both conventional and non-conventional, in the context of a comprehensive, lasting and stable peace, characterised by the renunciation of the use of force, reconciliation and goodwill.

(iii) As part of the League of Arab States, Jordan took part in formulating the draft convention on the establishment of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East: Jordan was one of the members of the select committee that was responsible for drafting the articles of that convention.

(iv) Jordan has adopted a clear and unwavering policy towards weapons of mass destruction and has used every possible occasion and every international forum to communicate the danger that is represented to the region by the proliferation in it of such weapons, and to demand that the international community and the Security Council should bring pressure to bear on States to adhere to the relevant international instruments and place all their nuclear facilities under the safeguards regime of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

(b) At the security level:

(i) The armed forces are making efforts to improve all aspects of early warning systems, including intelligence, radar and command and control, with a view to minimizing response time and to taking the necessary measures in the event of the launch of ballistic missiles.

(ii) The capacities of the Chemical Support Group are being developed in the fields of detection, protection, decontamination and passive defence against chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear weapons of mass destruction.

(iii) The appropriate parties in the Royal Medical Services have identified the equipment, medication and vaccinations that are required in order to alleviate the impact of the use against the military and civilians of weapons of mass destruction.

(iv) At the 2012 Seoul Nuclear Security Summit, His Majesty the Supreme Commander of the Jordanian Armed Forces announced an initiative to form an anti-nuclear trafficking team, with a view to avoiding the risks posed by the circulation and smuggling of nuclear materials and in order to establish and strengthen the concept of nuclear security.

10. Jordan supports all regional and international endeavours to achieve nuclear security and prohibit the use of nuclear weapons and that will lead to the establishment in the Middle East of a zone free of weapons of mass destruction. It has acceded to an International Atomic Energy Agency comprehensive safeguards agreement and all the relevant international instruments, including the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Biological Weapons Convention and the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, and subscribes to the goals of the Washington and Seoul Summits. Jordan has taken the initiative in signing such instruments that relate to nuclear installations as the Convention on Nuclear Safety, the Convention on Assistance in Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency and the Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident. Jordan also upholds the right of States to obtain, develop and use nuclear power for peaceful purposes and to produce peaceful energy.

11. Jordan considers that arrangements for building confidence, security and cooperation between the States of the region and halting the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction will increase stability, peace and security in the region and at the national, regional and international levels. They will also help to establish and consolidate the principles of equality, freedom and democracy, with the aim of establishing in the Middle East a zone free of nuclear weapons.